

HOUSE BILL 753

By Carr

AN ACT to name a bridge on State Route 96 in Rutherford County in honor of James C. McKnight.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary public servants who have contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than Mr. James C. McKnight of the Lascassas community in Rutherford County who has worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his family and fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native and lifelong resident of Rutherford County, James C. McKnight will celebrate his 93rd birthday and 68th wedding anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS Mr. McKnight has certainly instilled into his family the importance of community and continuity; all seven of his children, nine of his twelve grandchildren, and six of his eight great-grandchildren reside in Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, Mr. McKnight proudly served his country during World War II in the 161st Field Artillery Battalion, 35th Infantry Division, United States Army; and

WHEREAS, he served bravely as a survey and instrument soldier in the Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe campaigns and received the Good Conduct Medal and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with five service stars; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Mr. McKnight purchased a 229-acre farm along State Route 96 in the Lascassas community of Rutherford County where he continues to live today; and

WHEREAS, although he worked as a carpenter to provide for his family, Mr. McKnight was truly devoted to farming and it has played an important role in his life and the family's fortunes; and

WHEREAS, his greatest joy in life has been sitting atop his tractor while working his fields and raising Tennessee Walking Horses; and

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners has petitioned this General Assembly to name a bridge that borders his property on State Route 96 to honor James C. McKnight and his faithful service to the United States military and his family and fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the bridge between mile markers 22 and 23 on State Route 96 in Rutherford County is hereby designated the "James C. McKnight Bridge" as a lasting tribute to a noble son of the soil who has worked with purpose and conviction to make Tennessee an even better place to live.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "James C. McKnight Bridge."

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any

expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.